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FROM TOM'S DESK

As the curtain comes down on 2007, I am reminded of what a terrific staff I am privileged to lead here at the Office of Veterans Advocacy (OVA). I know you join me in thanking them for the many hours of study and research they put in over this past year to be as efficient as possible in representing Idaho's veterans. The hours spent traveling on outreaches and to training sessions, as well as all those nights in motels away from family, are greatly appreciated. I am confident that in 2008, my entire staff will continue to work hard to provide you the best possible service.

Speaking of staff, Niki Wilkins, from our Boise office, has moved out to the State Veterans Cemetery. Her outstanding customer service skills make her just the right person to meet the sensitive needs of our veteran's families at a very difficult time. We wish her well in her new position. Replacing her will be Rebecca Cotterell, who will join us as of Monday, January 14th. Please help me welcome Rebecca. She is excited about the opportunity to work with veterans and their families, and I know she will be a great addition to our team.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks at the various mid-winter conferences. Thank you for your continued strong support of veteran's issues. The fact that congress just passed historic funding, giving the VA the largest increase in history, demonstrates your voice is not being ignored. Membership and activism in the veteran service organizations are vitally important.

Enjoy this edition of "The Bulletin" and share it with your fellow veterans. The OVA staff and I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous 2008.

IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – BOISE VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Phil Hawkins

As we prepare to meet the new year, it's important to reflect on the things that should remind us just how fortunate we are and that we are still at war. In my opinion, we will be fighting the war on terrorism for many years to come. I like to think we here at the Home in Boise make an effort every day to remember those still fighting to keep this Nation free and allow us to enjoy our freedom.

We have had many wonderful acts of kindness this last quarter. The Beds for Vets project has done very well and we will continue to keep this a high priority until we can say "mission accomplished." Of course, I would be remiss if I did not talk about all the great activities we have had since my last report.

On October 7th, we held our annual Fall Oktoberfest Parking Lot Party. This year, there were 81 antique cars, the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for donations, and we had many raffle items. Thanks to Ralph Simmons and the Jefferies for providing the entertainment, and to all who helped make this activity such a rousing success. We raised a good amount of money to support our annual Christmas parties and the Activity Department. On Halloween, we had a great party sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. A large group of staff, veterans, and volunteers came dressed in costumes and as always, a great time was had by all. Thanks to the Roundtable volunteers for all their help.

We participated in the Veterans Day Parade on November 10th. I had the honor of being the Grand Marshall and was able to visit and thank all the parade participants. Our Veterans Day Program on November 11th was sponsored this year by American Legion Posts 2 and 136. Tom Ressler was Master of Ceremonies and several veterans and volunteers were honored with Senator Crapo's Spirit of Freedom Awards. The American Legion's Annual Food Convoy was held November 17th. A great deal of food was donated to our Home, along with several monetary donations to be used for special meals and food activities. As always, the great stew provided by our dietary staff was a big hit with the Food Convoy folks. After lunch, several Legion folks stayed and helped serve our veterans their noon meal. Again, thank you American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

On November 21st, we took three groups of veterans and volunteer escorts to the Festival of Trees and as always, they had a terrific time. Thanks go out to the Osborne family for the Heroes Tree and to Drs. Jeff Menzer and Dawn King for the Betty Boop Tree. Both trees were placed in our Dining Room. The Heroes Tree is in remembrance of those who have lost

IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOMES

Local service officers, family or friends who may know of interested eligible veterans are asked to encourage them to make application for admittance to the home in their geographic area. Call or write to the following for more information and/or applications.

- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise**
Sarah Yoder
320 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 246-8736
- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston**
Sara Alway
821 - 21st Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-3422
- ✱ **Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello**
Darcel Cook
1957 Alvin Ricken Drive
Pocatello ID 83201
(208) 236-6340

their lives in the current conflict. One father found his son's name there, and it was a truly touching moment. On Thanksgiving, we had many volunteers come help serve the wonderful meal prepared by our dietary staff, and a large number of family members enjoyed Thanksgiving Dinner with their loved ones. It made for a very pleasant day for our veterans. Thank you volunteers for stepping up and helping out.

December 1st and 2nd was the Annual American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Gift Shop for our veterans. It's always wonderful for our veterans to shop for their family members at no cost to themselves, with the out-of-town gifts being mailed without cost to the veterans as well. This year's escorts were from the Treasure Valley Young Marines and the Mountain Home motorcycle group. Most of the shopping was completed on Saturday and Sunday, so the ALA ladies were able to get all the gifts wrapped and ready to mail. Thanks to everyone for their help.

The evening of December 1st was the annual Luminous Lantern Parade, where a large group of young people showed off their lanterns. Our sincere thanks to Idaho Power Company and their employees for their continued support of this great program by providing monetary awards in three age categories. Thanks also goes out to Mike Fritz for his continued support by helping judge the lanterns. Mike was also instrumental in starting the program in 1991. I'd also like to thank all the folks who participated and provided all the delicious cookies for the night.

Many school, church, and civic groups have come to our Home to perform for our residents during December. Gowen Field delivered Christmas gifts on the 19th and Christmas Parties were held on the 21st. It was good see so many come help our veterans celebrate Christmas. Thanks for going out of your way to make Christmas special for our veterans.

I want to remind everyone of the importance of visiting the Veterans Home during January and February. People sometimes forget us after the holidays, and our veterans need to know volunteers and visitors will be here all year to support them. May the peace and beauty of Christmas be with you throughout the coming year. And again, on behalf of all the veterans, staff, and volunteers, thank you.

IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – POCATELLO

VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Carey Hebdon

During this past year, our residents participated in numerous activities and opportunities because of the generosity and support of volunteers and donors. In addition to the many wonderful activities that took place throughout the year, this past quarter was fabulous!

With October, school got underway. Teachers and students alike thought of our veterans and scheduled a number of group activities with them. Members of our veterans' community visited the Home in October, gearing up for the programs and events sponsored during November and December.

We appreciate all those who participated in and supported the Home's annual Veterans Day Program. Senator Crapo's Spirit of Freedom awards were presented to the nominees from Southeast Idaho, including our Veterans Home nominees. This year, families highlighted the lives and service of several of our residents as just an example of the living history residing in our State Veterans Homes. The willing participation of the veteran community and our citizens is what makes these programs so nice, being done with respect and honor to the veterans living in our Home and the community.

The Food Convoy Program, sponsored by the American Legion, is always incredible and very heart-warming. To see so many gather resources to bring year-long benefits to our residents is awesome and humbling. Those of us privileged to work at the Home are grateful for the resources that allow us to facilitate outings, in-house activities, delicious meals, and more. We recognize the how dedication and loyalty, displayed by the thousands of dollars in goods and cash, contributes to those daily smiles we see from our heroes. This year alone, we were honored to accept well over \$21,000 in grocery goods and cash. Thank you to everyone involved.

The annual "Turkey Run" by our local bikers insured there was plenty of turkey and ham for our holiday meals. Others in Idaho's Southeast community showed their consideration in many ways. The annual "Christmas Gift Table," sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, continued to give the gift of independence by offering our residents the opportunity to "shop" for their loved ones without leaving the Home, and without spending their personal monies. It is such a pleasure let our residents know the cost is just a smile when they question how much they owe. We cannot thank all of our selfless partners in caring enough.

With the declining population of older veterans, it has become the honor of our Home to host a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Program for the veterans here and in the community, as well as for our active duty personnel. Wishing to honor the sacrifices of that fateful day and what was to follow, the Commander of VFW District 7 chose to end with a celebration of gratitude. A beautiful musical tribute by one of our local high schools concluded the ceremony by ushering in the holiday season with song. Students and the younger generation are learning the value of our veterans. Another example of this is the annual Veterans Day Musical Tribute by 4th graders from Malad Elementary School. This annual performance is said to literally be the highlight of the year for these youngsters. Their stirring program indicates the level of love and appreciation that exists for all our veterans – those living in our Homes, and those veterans and active duty military who care for their own with incredible acts of kindness and generosity. Adopt-a-Vet Programs, community, businesses, and service organizations

This year, the Elks Lodges in Southeast Idaho combined their resources to provide gifts to our residents and to our Home. Wal-Mart associates from the Chubbuck store chose to again purchase gifts for our residents. By providing the most community service in the entire Nation through their grass roots association, a gift of \$5,000 from the foundation allowed them to do even more by generously donating it to the Pocatello Veterans Home.

IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME – LEWISTON
VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Terri Brockman

In November, residents were invited to Orchards Elementary School, where first, third, and six grade students interviewed and took pictures of them. Later, there was a dinner in their honor at the school, where they enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Days later, the residents were invited to Lewiston High School for a Veterans Day celebration, where the school honored them with a slide show and the Marine Corps League presented the Flag. On Veterans Day, the North Idaho Children's Home paid us a visit and presented the residents with lap robes and conducted their first flag ceremony. The children were very excited and the residents truly relished in the presentation. After the ceremony, a group of veterans went to the Elks Lodge for lunch and a Veterans Day ceremony. On November 12th, the morning began with the dedication of the 'I am An American Memorial' and ended with Senator Crapo's Spirit of Freedom awards. Resident, Alvin Wutzke, and volunteer, Lucille Scott, each received this distinguished award. The event was a huge success and the statue continues to be a focal point for the community. Members of the DAR took pictures of our residents in December for a personalized calendar for the resident's families for Christmas. We also had an addition to our pet family here at the Home. We received a donation of three parakeets; Peter, Paul, and Mary. They can be found in our day area chirping away to the music or making their own music.

Our veterans delighted in Clarkston's lighted Christmas Parade, enjoying hamburgers and french-fries while watching the decorated entries pass by. The American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Table was a huge success again this year, with residents happy for the opportunity to shop for their families with all the goods, wrapping, and mailing provided by the Auxiliary. On December 7th, the residents attended the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony put on by the Valley Veterans Organizations.

Many volunteer opportunities are available here at the Veterans Home in Lewiston. We need volunteers in the canteen, visiting with residents, and with bingo and playing cards. Anyone who enjoys singing, playing instruments, and entertaining our troops are encouraged to schedule a place on our activity calendar. If you would like to join the group of caring individuals who volunteer at the Home, please contact me at 799-3422 or stop by the Idaho State Veterans Home in Lewiston at 821 21st Avenue.

IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY UPDATE

CEMETERY DIRECTOR, Zach Rodriguez

The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery has had some wonderful events to close out 2007. On October 5th, we had the ribbon cutting for our new Public Information building, as well as our triennial review by the VA National Cemetery Association. During the review, we received very high marks for the quality of staff and how well they take care of the cemetery. To end the month of October, I traveled to Portland, Oregon to visit Willamette National Cemetery. I went on several tours and met a lot of wonderful people who have continued to help to make our cemetery the best State cemetery possible.

The month of November did not see any slow of activity. The Missing in America Program on November 9th went better than we could have hoped and helped to kick off a very wonderful Veterans' Day weekend. We had the honor of interring 16 indigent veterans and spouses during the program, with several individuals passing's dating back to the late 1980's. We interred veterans who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as the spouse of a WWI veteran. The month ended with a trip to Southeast Idaho to begin seeking property for a second Idaho Veterans Cemetery.

The month of December kept up the pace to close out a wonderful year. The Civil Air Patrol, led by LTC Dave Guzman, held the 'Wreaths Across America' program on December 15th. The program was very well attended. Many thanks go out to the Elks Lodge, as they donated three patio style propane heaters to the cemetery. A very welcome addition, they were utilized during the program and are being used by the honor guard to help stay warm during services during this cold time of year. A very happy holiday season was had by all of us at the cemetery and we wish everyone the best in the year to come.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR WHEELCHAIR-CONFINED VETERANS NOW AVAILABLE

Currently, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) provides transportation for ambulatory veterans to and from VA Medical Center appointments. In 2002, the second session of the 56th Legislature approved \$30,000 for the creation of a one-year pilot program providing wheelchair-confined veterans with vouchers toward transportation expenses to and from medical appointments. The pilot program was very successful, but was discontinued due to lack of funding. Since that time, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services and the DAV have worked together to re-establish program funding. The 1st regular session of the 58th Idaho Legislature approved ongoing funding for the program in Division's FY2006 appropriation.

To be eligible to participate in the Medical Transportation Payment for Wheelchair-confined Veterans program, a veteran must be discharged from military service under honorable conditions, confined to a wheelchair, be a bona fide resident of the State of Idaho, and have a verifiable medical appointment.

Only commercial transportation providers within the State of Idaho are eligible for voucher reimbursement. Commercial carriers wishing to enter into an Agreement with the Idaho Division of Veterans Services to provide transportation for wheelchair-confined veterans may contact Tammy Hebdon with the Idaho Division of Veterans Services at (208) 334-3513.

The commercial transportation carrier will determine the fee for services in his/her area; that fee will be part of the carrier's agreement with the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. The Division of Veterans Services will reimburse the carrier not to exceed \$100 for a round-trip or \$50 for a one-way trip to a medical appointment. The veteran is responsible for charges in excess of the reimbursed amounts.

Currently, the following commercial carriers are available through the program:

Boise, Nampa, Caldwell area

MoulinRu Transportation
6869 South Powerline Road
Nampa, ID 83686
(208) 463-2960

Mountain Home/Elmore County area

Mountain Home Shuttle Service
1200 Sunset Strip
Mountain Home, ID 83647
(208) 580-1873

Pocatello/Idaho Falls area

Rocky Mountain Trails/Salt Lake Expres
P.O. Box 566
Rexburg, ID 83440
(208) 356-9796

American Falls/Power County area

Regal Shuttle Services, LLC
2501 Povey Road
American Falls, ID 83211
(208) 226-3131

Veterans interested in receiving a transportation voucher to assist them in obtaining transportation to and from a VA Medical Center appointment should contact their State or County Service Officer who will determine eligibility and refer the veteran to a local transportation carrier. A veteran applying for a transportation voucher must contact his/her State or County Service Officer to apply for the voucher at least three (3) business days before the scheduled medical appointment. For further information, contact Tammy Hebdon with the Idaho Division of Veterans Services at 320 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702 or call (208) 334-3513.

2008 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Congress has passed and President Bush has signed Public Law 110-110, which provides a 2.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective December 1, 2007, for disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, clothing allowance, pension, and certain other related benefits. The percentage is based on the annual the annual Social Security index rate.

The COLA will be reflected in checks issued on or about January 1, 2008. Full VA benefits rate tables may be found at www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates. In addition, the following tables are provided for your use.

Disability Compensation – Basic Rates

Dependent Status	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran	\$117	\$230	\$356	\$512	\$728	\$921	\$1,161	\$1,349	\$1,517	\$2,527
Veteran + spouse			398	568	799	1,006	1,260	1,462	1,644	2,669
Veteran + spouse + 1 child			429	610	850	1,068	1,332	1,545	1,737	2,772
Veteran + spouse + 2 children			450	638	885	1,110	1,381	1,601	1,800	2,843
Veteran + spouse + 3 children			471	666	920	1,152	1,430	1,657	1,863	2,914
Veteran + spouse + 4 children			492	694	955	1,194	1,479	1,713	1,926	2,985
Each additional child			21	28	35	42	49	56	63	71
Each additional schoolchild *			68	90	113	136	158	181	204	227
Additional for A/A spouse **			39	52	64	77	90	103	116	129

*Rates for each schoolchild are shown separately, and are not included with any other compensation rates. All other entries on this chart reflecting a rate for children show the rate payable for children under 18 or helpless. To find the amount payable to a 70% disabled veteran with a spouse and 4 children, one of whom is over 18 and attending school, take the 70% rate for a veteran with a spouse and 3 children, \$1,430, and add the rate for one school child, \$158. The total amount payable is \$1,588.

**Where the veteran has a spouse who is determined to require aid and attendance (A/A), add the figure shown as “additional for A/A spouse” to the amount shown for the proper dependency code. For example, the veteran has an A/A spouse and 2 minor children and is 70% disabled. Add \$90 additional for the A/A spouse to the rate for a 70% veteran with a spouse and 2 children, \$1,381. The total amount payable is \$1,471.

Improved Disability Pension Rates

Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category	Amount
Without spouse or child.....	\$11,181
With one dependent	\$14,643
Housebound without dependents	\$13,664
Housebound with one dependent.....	\$17,126
A/A without dependents.....	\$18,654
A/A with one dependent.....	\$22,113
For each additional child add to any category above.....	\$1,909

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation – Surviving Spouse

Veteran’s death was on or after January 1, 1993

The basic monthly rate is \$1,091. Add \$233 if at the time of the veteran’s death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death and the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years. Add \$271 if the surviving spouse is entitled to A/A. Add \$128 if the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound.

Full 2008 VA benefits Cost-of-Living adjustment information can be found at www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates.

VFW POST SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

It is now time to submit nominations for the 2008 Post Service Officer of the year Award. The Post Service Officer can be the crucial first link for veterans and their dependents at the “grass roots” level. This program is designed to provide annual VFW National recognition to a VFW Post Service Officer who provided exemplary service to veterans and their families.

Nominees for the annual award must have demonstrated exceptional efforts in assisting veterans and their families during the past 12 months. A brief summary must be submitted explaining who, what, when, where, and how the nominee’s efforts are considered exemplary.

Each department may nominate one person, who is a duly appointed and currently serving Post Service Officer, for this award. The individual ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel for themselves and one guest and hotel accommodations to attend the national Veterans Service Spring Proficiency Training Conference held April 6-9, 2008.

SHADES OF GREEN ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER SALUTES VETERANS

Shades of Green, an Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) on Walt Disney World, is offering all military veterans an opportunity to vacation on the resort during the months of January and September as part of a “Salute to our Veterans” program.

“I am really impressed and proud to be eligible to use this vacation resort,” said Nancy Dreussi, unit administrative technician for United States Army Reserves, A Company 256th Combat Support Hospital in Blacklick, Ohio. “As a veteran of active duty regular Army and someone who has been deployed overseas to a hostile area as an Army Reservist, this is an awesome ‘thank you.’ It is great to be able to get away with the family, especially after having been gone from them for such a long time.”

Located on Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, the Shades of Green is one of five Armed Forces Recreation Centers in the world. The AFRC’s are self-supporting and provide luxury accommodations at a fraction of the cost of similar facilities. Room rates are on a sliding scale based on rank or grade, and reservations are normally restricted to active-duty or retired DoD employees.

Shades of Green sits between the Palm and Magnolia golf courses, two of Disney’s PGA-certified courses, and provides soldiers and families all the comforts and benefits of a resort vacation. Situated on 30 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds with cascading waterfalls and lush tropical gardens, the resort boasts 586 guest rooms with 11 family and junior suites, two heated swimming pools, a hot tub, and a children’s pool. Guests are provided transportation to all Walt Disney World attractions and early entry into select venues inside the Magic Kingdom. Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, and Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park are just minutes away. Discount tickets are available to all area attractions.

“We owe our Soldiers and veterans the opportunity to enjoy the same quality of life they’ve pledged to defend,” said Rich Gorman, chief operating officer of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, which runs the resorts. “These AFRC’s are one of the many ways we show our Soldiers we’re here for them and their families.”

While Shades of Green can assist honorably discharged veterans year-round in acquiring discounted accommodations in neighboring resorts and hotels, the “Salute to Our Veterans” program allows veterans to book rooms at Shades of Green Resort for the first time. Space is limited, so early reservations are recommended. For more information or to make room reservations, call Shades of Green at (407) 827-8387 or go online at www.shadesofgreenvets.org.

VA COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY OR INCENTIVE THERAPY PROGRAMS ARE NOT TAXABLE

For a Veteran who has received or is receiving either Compensated Work Therapy or Incentive Therapy programs, the following information is very important.

The VA Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) and Incentive Therapy (IT) programs are work therapy programs intended to help veterans receiving treatment at VA Hospitals return to employment. Veterans who have participated in these programs and received payments from the VA as part of their therapy may have had their payments reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), if they received over \$600 in any year. The payments from these programs may have been treated as taxable income, based on IRS regulations in place at the time.

The United States Tax Court recently determined the payments from these VA programs are not taxable because they are tax-exempt veterans’ benefits. Veterans who reported CWT or IT work therapy program payments as taxable income may be eligible to file amended tax returns claiming refunds of the tax they paid on program payments. Veterans who reported these payments as taxable income are advised to speak with a tax advisor regarding this matter.

VA AND DOD COMMENCE SINGLE DISABILITY EXAMINATION PILOT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

News Release, November 29, 2007

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) the week of November 29th, began a pilot program to test a new single disability evaluation system for wounded warriors at the three major military medical facilities in the Washington D.C. area.

This initiative is designed to eliminate the duplicative and often confusing elements of the current disability processes of the two departments. Key features of the disability evaluation system (DES) pilot include one medical examination and a single-sourced disability rating.

The single disability examination pilot is another improvement as a result of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, co-chaired by former Senator Robert Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, and is aimed to simplify health care and rehabilitation for injured service members and veterans.

This pilot program will seek to ease the transition of wounded service members through the disability evaluation system to reentry into the civilian community with more efficient delivery of disability compensation at the time they leave military service.

The VA is providing the medical professionals performing the examinations. The pilot is being conducted for service members at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, and the Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, and will run for one year. Throughout the pilot, VA and DoD officials will monitor progress to determine potential expansion into other locations.

The pilot includes all non-clinical care and administrative activities, such as case management and counseling requirements associated with disability case processing from the service member's initial referral to a Military Department Medical Evaluation Board to the VA's compensation and benefits program.

PTSD CLAIMS UP 70% IN 2007

By Tim Dyhouse, VFW Magazine, December 2007 Issue

The number of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) increased almost 70% from June 2006 to July 2007, according to VA data. Total cases grew from 29,041 to 48,559 during that time. Overall, the VA reports that mental health cases, which include PTSD as well as conditions such as drug and alcohol dependency and depression, jumped from 63,767 in June 2006 to 100,580 in July 2007, a 58% increase. The number of veterans diagnosed with PTSD, nearly 50,000, exceeds the number of troops wounded, some 30,000, in the two conflicts since 2001.

TRI-STATE WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 2008

Women are often called the "invisible" veterans because of their reluctance to embrace their status as veterans, and because of an underutilization of the benefits and services they have earned. There are approximately 8,000 women veterans residing in Idaho and only a small percentage receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Many women do not know they are eligible for VA benefits.

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services and Washington Department of Veterans' Affairs, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, are inviting female veterans from all three states to attend the 2008 Tri-State Women Veterans Conference free of charge. Women from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington will be converging on the new Pendleton Convention Center for the inaugural Tri-State Women Veterans Conference, April 18-19, 2008.

A variety of workshops concerning veterans' benefits and entitlements, women's health issues, and employment and job seeking tips will be offered on both days. Lunch will be served free of charge both days, and there is a banquet the first night, also free of charge. Women veterans are greatly encouraged to come learn about the veteran benefits they have earned from their service in the U.S. Armed Forces. If you know of a women veteran, please pass this information on to her and encourage her to attend this worthwhile event.

The flyer for the conference is on the next page, with the registration form located on the back of that. Registration is required. For more information about the conference or registration, please call 503-373-2264, or check out the website at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/mvc.shtml.

Tri-State Women Veterans Conference 2008



SAVE THE DATES! SAVE THE DATES! SAVE THE DATES!

What: Conference for Women Veterans
From Oregon, Idaho, and Washington

When: April 18 & 19, 2008

Who: ALL WOMEN WHO SERVED
IN THE MILITARY

Where: Pendleton Convention Center
Pendleton, Oregon

Details: No Cost for Participation

Reservations will be required

FREE LUNCH

Our last conference resulted in women veterans receiving thousands of dollars in compensation or other benefits

Comments from previous conference participants:

"Awesome! This is my 4th conference."

"This was very fun and informative."

"This conference should be once a year."

"A sense of belonging that I haven't felt in years."

Most veterans do not know about ALL of their benefits.

For more information,
email gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov
or call (208) 246-8761

2008 TRI-STATE WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

APRIL 18 AND 19, 2008



**PENDLETON CONVENTION CENTER
PENDLETON, OREGON**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Dates of Service: _____

What day(s) will you be attending (circle): Friday Saturday Both

Do you plan on attending the Friday night banquet? Yes No

There is no charge for banquet, just a serious commitment to attend.

Lunch will be served each day at no charge.

Do you have any special needs? _____

Please return this registration form **NO LATER THAN** March 7, 2008, to:
Val Conley, ODVA, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
OR copy and paste this registration from www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc.shtml,
then e-mail it to orwomenvets@odva.state.or.us
OR fax it to (503) 373-2393

If you have any questions with regards to registration, please call 503-373-2264.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc.shtml

THE VA ESTABLISHES SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

If you or a veteran you know is experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk with a trained VA professional, the VA has established a toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline. (800) 273-TALK (8255) is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You will be immediately connected with a qualified and caring provider who can help.

Some suicide warning signs include:

- Threatening to hurt or kill yourself;
- looking for ways to kill yourself;
- seeking access to pills, weapons, or other self destructive behavior; and/or
- talking about death, dying, or suicide.

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention. If you or a veteran you care about has been showing any of these signs, do not hesitate to call and ask for help!

Additional warning signs may include:

- Hopelessness;
- rage, anger, seeking revenge;
- acting reckless or engaging in risky activities, seemingly without thinking;
- increasing alcohol or drug abuse;
- feeling trapped - like there's no way out;
- withdrawing from friends and family;
- anxiety, agitation, inability to sleep, or excessive sleepiness;
- dramatic mood swings; and/or
- feeling there is no reason for living, no sense of purpose in life.

Please call the toll-free hotline number, (800) 273-TALK (8255), if you or someone you know experiences any of these warning signs. They'll get you the help and assistance you need right away!

NEW VA FUNDING BILL PUTS VETERANS FIRST

News Release, December 19, 2007

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is saluting the anticipated passage of an historic funding bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs, one that would add \$3.7 billion to the \$34 billion in discretionary funding the administration had proposed earlier in 2007.

"President Bush and Congress don't always agree on every issue, but they do agree that America's veterans must be cared for," said VFW National Commander George Lisicki, a Vietnam veteran from Carteret, NJ. "This VA increase honors that commitment, and I expect the president to quickly sign it into law, and to release the \$3.7 billion plus-up before the January 18th deadline, as called for in the bill."

As the nation's largest organization of combat veterans, the VFW has consistently maintained the true cost of war includes the proper care and treatment of the men and women who serve their country in uniform. The VA budget increase, part of a FY 2008 omnibus package that passed in the House on December 16th and in the Senate on December 18th, is endorsed by the veterans' service organization community and by the vast majority of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. The additional funding Congress provided is needed for construction and infrastructure improvements, medical and prosthetic research, and to hire additional mental health counselors, healthcare professionals, and claims adjudicators.

"I salute the Congress for making this additional funding available, and the President for his untiring support of military families past and present," said Lisicki. "This budget puts veterans first, which will help ensure the world class VA healthcare system continues to be accessible and responsive to the needs of those veterans with physical and mental disabilities."

Also approved by the Senate was \$70 billion in emergency funding for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, an amount that should be sufficient to eliminate a planned furlough of 200,000 Defense Department civilians and contractors that would have been implemented had the additional funding not been approved. The House, who had approved \$31 billion for operations in Afghanistan only, is expected to agree to the Senate's amount.

DAV APPLAUDS TELEVISION REPORT ON ALLEGED CHARITY FRAUD

News Release, November 6, 2007

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is commending Cleveland WEWS-TV investigative reporter Ron Regan for his exposé about an organization, known as the “Disabled Veterans Associations,” that is preying on the patriotism of our nation’s citizens by seeking financial support allegedly for those who have served and sacrificed for the cause of liberty, but with most of the money going into the pockets of unscrupulous fund raisers.

DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson says the extensive investigative effort by Regan uncovered how a charity using a name similar to the Disabled American Veterans was able to obtain more than \$5 million in donations, with most of it going into the pockets of fund raisers. “While the ‘Disabled Veterans Associations’ is very similar in name to the Disabled American Veterans, the fulfillment of the mission to help disabled veterans is not,” Wilson said. “The Disabled Veterans Associations, the subject of Mr. Regan’s reports, is despicably preying on the generosity of a grateful nation for personal gain.”

Regan’s reports on this cynical exploitation were being broadcast only days before Veterans Day, when America honors those who have served our nation. “Deceiving the American public by using a name similar to ours and then misusing the money donated to help disabled veterans is a scandalous act of betrayal that fills every veteran with anger and disgust,” said Wilson. “There is a vast difference between DAV and the Disabled Veterans Associations. We are pleased that Mr. Regan’s reports will tell America the truth.”

The reports were scheduled to be broadcast November 6th and 7th on ABC affiliate WEWS-TV in Cleveland, Ohio. The full text of National Adjutant Wilson’s comments is available at www.dav.org.

The 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site at www.dav.org.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AWARDS 1,000 GRANTS

News Release, December 21, 2007

The American Legion distributed or processed 1,000 grants to disabled veterans this past holiday season thanks to a \$500,000 donation from The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes. “The grants are gone, but the need to care for those who have borne the cost of battle remains,” said National Commander Marty Conatser. “I am grateful to the Coalition for this generous gift. These vets certainly deserve it.”

Any veteran who incurred a 30% or more disability while serving in the theater of operations during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom was eligible for a \$500 grant. The American Legion assumed all distribution and administrative costs, so the entire Coalition donation was awarded to the veterans. “These grants were just a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many of America’s men and women in uniform,” said Thomas J. Palma, general manager of the Coalition. “The American Legion is a well-respected organization with a presence in communities across America. Legion service officers did a great job in finding deserving veterans and processing the grants.”

It was not the first time the two organizations have teamed up to award grants to disabled veterans. The American Legion distributed checks for the Coalition in 2005. “The program was so successful two years ago that The American Legion’s National Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution at our last convention authorizing our assistance in this great endeavor,” Conatser said.

The awards were greatly appreciated by many of the recipients. “I recently received a grant from the Legion. You have no idea what this has meant to me. It has been a great aid to my family and it just puts special warmth in me to know that there are good people out there that appreciate the sacrifice and work young and old people have given to preserve what is good about our home,” said one recipient from Mt. Laurel, NJ. “I was not expecting this and it is with a joyful heart that I give you all my sincerest thanks, you made my family’s Christmas. May God bless all of you.”

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, www.saluteheroes.org, is a nonprofit organization created to provide a way for individuals, corporations, and others to help severely wounded and disabled Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and their families rebuild their lives.

The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. The Legion’s 2.7 million wartime veterans work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

VA DELIVERING FOR OUR HOMELESS VETERANS

The VA is the largest federal provider of direct assistance to the homeless. Services provided include health care, outreach and case management, employment, rehabilitation, transitional residential care, therapeutic work, and assistance with permanent housing.

There has been a 22% reduction in the number of homeless veterans in comparison to estimates as recent as five years ago. The estimated number of homeless veterans fell from 250,000 to today's 195,000 on any given night. Only about 30% of homeless veterans are chronically homeless, which are the hardest to reach among the homeless population. The VA's programs are designed to directly serve this important group. The VA supports more than 15,000 beds in transitional housing facilities and VA residential treatment programs.

100,000 veterans, more than half the number of homeless veterans, receive VA health care each year. The VA expects to spend \$1.6 billion for medical treatment and \$287 million for homeless specific programs in FY08. 346 program clinicians are working nationwide who contact homeless veterans as part of their dedication to the homeless health care outreach effort.

More than \$300 million in grants have been provided to local partners for homeless programs. The VA also partners with hundreds of communities on Stand Downs across the nation. Stand Downs give homeless veterans a temporary refuge where they can obtain food, shelter, clothing, and a range of community and VA assistance. Providers can contact the VA's Homeless Veterans Programs Office at www1.va.gov/homeless, by calling (202) 273-5764, or by emailing the VA at homelessvets@mail.va.gov.

GOVERNOR OTTER ORDERS POW/MIA FLAG BE FLOWN 24/7, 365 DAYS A YEAR

The Governor of the State of Idaho, C. L. "Butch" Otter has issued an executive order ordering the POW/MIA Flag to be flown over all state owned buildings 24/7, 365 days a year, or until such time as all our unaccounted for and missing members of the Armed Forces are returned home to their families.

The protocol for the flying of the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag, and the State Flag is below. This is an excellent opportunity for members of Idaho's Veterans Service Organizations to assist state agencies in the display of the POW/MIA Flag. It would also help immensely if the Service Organizations could donate the Flag and clips, and perhaps install the same, at the various state agencies in their communities. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated by these agencies. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jim Adams, Administrative Support Manager for the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, at (208) 334-3513.

Protocol for flying the POW/MIA flag is as follows:

- ✓ On one flagpole, the POW/MIA Flag is flown below the American Flag and above any state flag.
- ✓ On two flagpoles, the POW/MIA Flag is flown on the same pole as the American Flag, below the American Flag, and this pole should be to the flag's own right of the second pole. Any state flag should fly on the second pole.
- ✓ On three flagpoles, the American Flag should be flown on the pole located to the flag's own right, the POW/MIA Flag should be flown on the middle pole, and any state flag should be flown on the pole located to the flag's own left.

VA CLARIFIES POLICY ON FLAG-FOLDING RECITATIONS

News Release, October 30, 2007

To ensure burial services at the 125 national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reflect the wishes of veterans and their families, VA officials have clarified the Department's policy about recitations made while the U.S. flag is folded at the gravesite of a veteran. "Honoring the burial wishes of veterans is one of the highest commitments for the men and women of VA," said William F. Tuerk, the VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones."

Traditional gravesite military funeral honors include the silent folding and presentation of an American flag, a 21-gun rifle salute, and the playing of "Taps." The clarification includes:

- Volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the so-called "13-fold" flag recitation or any comparable script;
- Survivors of the deceased need to provide material and request it be read by the volunteer honor guards; and
- Volunteer honor guards will accept requests for recitations reflecting any or no religious traditions on an equal basis.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses, and eligible dependent children can be buried in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, and a government headstone or marker.

HOW LONG DOES THE VA TAKE?

As of November 1, 2007, the VA Regional Office in Boise reports the following figures. The average time to process disability claims is:

	Boise	Nation
Original claims (7 issues or less):	122 days	201 days
Original claims (8 issues or more):	125 days	184 days
Reopened and claims for increase:	116 days	191 days
Service connected death claims:	80 days	131 days

The Boise VA Regional Office had 256 Global War on Terror (GWOT) claims pending. On average, these claims had been pending 73.7 days, compared to a national average of 112 days. They have identified 18 severely injured GWOT veterans in Idaho. Claims from three of them are still active and have been pending an average of 53 days. Boise has 1,465 disability claims pending. Of those, 78 (5.29%) have been pending more than six months, and nine (0.61%) are pending more than one year.

The average time on hold for calls coming to the Boise VA Regional Office in October was less than three minutes, with 2,356 calls taken. The worst time to call? The 1st three days of the month and any Monday. They also conducted 396 personal interviews with an average wait time of less than four minutes. The worst time to visit? The 1st three days of the month and any Monday.

In September, it took 22 days from receipt of an application for rehabilitation, to the date we notified the veteran of the decision on eligibility.

VA-MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL PROVIDING HISTORIC FUNDING INCREASE PASSES HOUSE News Release, November 30, 2007

U.S. Representative Chet Edwards (TX17), Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, recently hailed the House passage of the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill conference agreement. The bill, authored by Edwards, includes record budget increases for veterans. The bill increases the VA budget by \$6.6 billion above the 2007 level, the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration. It is \$3.7 billion above the President's request for fiscal year 2008.

"This bill respects the service and sacrifice of America's veterans by providing a historic funding increase for veterans' health care and strongly supports our military families," said Edwards. "This bill says clearly to all who have served in uniform: just as you have kept your promises to our country, we intend to keep our promises to you."

"For the 400,000 veterans, including combat wounded vets, who are having to wait too long to have their benefits cases reviewed, this bill means over 1,800 new VA case workers to reduce the unacceptable delays in receiving earned benefits," said Edwards. "To ensure that we spend these public funds wisely, we have increased the funding for the Office of Inspector General," said Edwards. "The Inspector General's office will be able to hire more investigators to guard against waste and mismanagement and to ensure that these funds are spent on the highest priority needs first."

The bill provides an unprecedented \$21.5 billion for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closing process known as BRAC. The total for military construction is an increase of \$306 million over the President's request, which means better barracks, housing, and training facilities when troops return from combat. The bill includes Edwards' Military Families Initiative, which will fund \$129 million to construct 16 new child care centers at military installations.

"I am particularly proud of what we were able to do in this bill for military families because military children and spouses are the unsung heroes in our nation's defense. They may not wear the uniform, but they make tremendous sacrifices every day for our country. Every year when the highest ranking non-commissioned officers testify before our subcommittee, they always highlight day care for military children as a top priority, but this priority always seems to get lost in the budget bureaucracy," said Edwards. "My Military Families Initiative will build 16 new child care centers at bases around the country," said Edwards. "We have put the highest priority on bases that have faced multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan."

The final conference agreement, which includes the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Labor-HHS appropriations bills, is expected to pass the House. A summary of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs is as follows:

Department of Veteran's Affairs: \$43.1 billion, \$3.7 billion over the President's budget request for veterans medical care, claims processing personnel, and facility improvements.

- Veterans' Health Care: \$37.2 billion, \$2.6 billion over the President's budget request for VA hospitals and clinics, and research into conditions such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which are among the most common problems facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. In 2008, the VA will treat 5.8 million patients, including about 263,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
- Claims Processors: \$124.2 million to provide 1,800 new claims processors to address the 400,000 benefit

claims backlog.

- Travel Reimbursement: \$125 million is included in the bill to increase the reimbursement rate for veterans who need to travel long distances for care from 11 cents/mile to 28.5 cents/mile.

Military Construction: \$21.5 billion, \$306 million above the President's budget request including \$129 million to construct 16 new child development centers.

- Guard and Reserve: \$ 1.1 billion, \$367 million above the President's budget request.

VA ANNOUNCES \$4.7 MILLION TO HELP CAREGIVERS

News Release, December 6, 2007

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it will provide nearly \$4.7 million for "caregiver assistance pilot programs" to expand and improve health care education and provide needed training and resources for caregivers who assist disabled and aging veterans in their homes. "This funding will enhance support and training for the family members and other caregivers who sacrifice to care for disabled and aging veterans," said Acting VA Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield. "At VA, we're committed to looking after caregivers who dedicate their own time and well-being to take care of loved ones who are veterans."

The pilot programs will support eight caregiver projects across the country. In addition, the VA provides support and assistance through a variety of programs such as care management, social work service, care coordination, geriatrics and extended care, and through its nationwide volunteer programs. Among the key services provided to caregivers are transportation, respite care, case management and service coordination, assistance with personal care (bathing and grooming), social and emotional support, and home safety evaluations.

Education programs teach caregivers how to obtain community resources such as legal assistance, financial support, housing assistance, home delivered meals, and spiritual support. In addition, caregivers are taught skills such as time management techniques, medication management, communication skills with the medical staff and the veteran, and ways to take better care of themselves. Many of the projects use technology, including computers, web-based training, video conferencing, and teleconferencing to support the needs of caregivers who often cannot leave their homes to participate in support activities.

The VA pilot programs announced today include:

- ✓ At the Memphis, Tennessee and Palo Alto, California VA Medical Centers, a project will provide education, support, and skills-building to help caregivers manage both patient behaviors and their own stress. This intervention will be provided in 14 Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) programs across the country and also to caregivers in non-HBPC settings at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.
- ✓ At the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, caregivers will take part in a Transition Assistance Program to provide skills training, education, and supportive problem solving using videophone technology.
- ✓ At the VA Healthcare System of Ohio, headquartered in Cincinnati, caregiver advocates will be available around the clock to coordinate between VA and community services.
- ✓ At the VA Desert Pacific Network and the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System, the VA will work with a community coalition to provide education, skills training, and resources for caregivers of veterans with traumatic brain injury using computer-based telehealth, including web, telephone, and videoconferencing.
- ✓ At the VA Medical Center in Albany, New York, a pilot project will convert a three-hour workshop developed by the National Family Caregivers Association called "Communicating Effectively with Health Care Professionals" into a cost-effective multimedia format.
- ✓ At the Atlanta VA Medical Center, use of computer-based technology will provide instrumental help and emotional support to caregivers who live in remote areas or to those who cannot leave a patient alone.
- ✓ The Tampa VA Medical Center and the Miami VA Healthcare System are working on a collaborative project. In the Tampa area, the current program will be expanded to provide 24-hour in-home respite care to temporarily relieve caregivers up to 14 days a year. In Miami, the program will coordinate comprehensive community-based care services, including respite, home companions, adult day care, and use of emergency response system.
- ✓ The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System will use the "medical foster home" model of care, in which caregivers in the community take veterans into their homes and provide 24-hour supervision. This program will take place on the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, Maui, and rural areas of Oahu.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1	New Year's Day
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 2	Groundhog Day
	Army Nurse Corp created, 1901
February 8	Boy Scouts of America founded, 1910
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 18	President's Day – <i>See the history of President's Day at the bottom of this page</i>
March 3	Star Spangled Banner made the U.S. National Anthem, 1931
March 9	Daylight-saving time begins – set clocks ahead one hour
March 12	Girl Scouts of America founded, 1912
March 16	U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY founded, 1802
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 23	Easter

CONVENTION SCHEDULES

American Legion

Mid-Winter	January 10-13, 2008, Boise, ID
State	July 11-13, 2008, Lewiston, ID
National	August 22-28, 2008, Phoenix, AZ

AMVETS

National	August 2-9, 2008, Orlando, FL
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Disabled American Veterans

State	April 30-May 3, 2008, Burley, ID
National	August 8-12, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

Marine Corps League

State	May 2008, Boise, ID (<i>actual dates to be announced</i>)
National	August 10-16, 2008, Orlando, FL

Military Order of the Purple Heart

State	May 17, 2008, Boise, ID
National	August 11-16, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

Retired Enlisted Association

National	September 7-13, 2008, San Juan, PR
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Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mid-Winter	January 17-19, 2007, Boise, ID
State	June 15-18, 2008, Worley, ID
National	August 16-21, 2008, Orlando, FL

THE HISTORY OF PRESIDENT'S DAY

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11th. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd, while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had taken firm root in the American experience as a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birthnight Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and fellow February baby, born on the 12th of the month. The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1968, legislation (HR 15951) was enacted that affected several federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observation of which was shifted to the third Monday in February each year, whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays and give federal employees some standard three-day weekends in the process.

Apparently, while the holiday in February is still officially known as Washington's Birthday (at least according to the Office of Personnel Management), it has become popularly (and, perhaps in some cases at the state level, legally) known as "President's Day." This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.

DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For more information call Laverne Gillum at the Boise VA Medical Center (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

✱ Homedale, Marsing, and Canyon County: Call Laverne Gillum (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

Pickup points:

Star.....	Star Merc
Middleton.....	Downtown Shell Station
.....	Shell Station at exit 25 of I-84
Notus.....	Shell Station
Parma.....	M&W Market
Wilder.....	Shell Station
Homedale.....	Shell Station
Caldwell.....	Chevron at 10 th Avenue South & the freeway
.....	Emergency entrance of West Valley Medical Center
.....	Maverick at 10 th Avenue South & Ustick
.....	20248 Hoskins Road
Nampa.....	Karcher Mall near Ross Dress for Less
.....	Albertson's at 7 th Street & 12 th Avenue South
.....	D and B Supply on 12 th Avenue South
Melba/Bowmont.....	Chevron at Greenhurst & Southside
.....	McDonalds at exit 38 of the freeway
Kuna.....	West side of the Winco parking lot

✱ Weiser, Payette, Ontario, Emmett, and surrounding area: Call Grace Field (208) 452-5920.

Pickup points:

Emmett.....	Tom's Cabin Restaurant
.....	Subway near Albertson's
.....	Stinker Station
Fruitland.....	Shell Station at Palisades Corner
.....	Shell Station at the highway
Middleton (Caldwell).....	44 Quick Stop
New Plymouth.....	Lowell's Market at 5 Corners
.....	Hamilton Corners at Highways 52 & 30
Nyssa.....	Anderson Corner
.....	McDonalds at West Park Plaza
Ontario.....	McDonalds at West Park Plaza
.....	McDonalds at K-Mart
.....	Shell Station at the freeway
.....	Shell Station on Idaho
.....	The Elk's
Payette.....	Albertson's
.....	Jerry's Market on 6 th
.....	Lonnie's market
Weiser.....	Sinclair Station at Highway 95
.....	Maverick Station at Highway 95
.....	Chevron Station
.....	Pioneer Market
.....	Ridley's Market

✱ Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln, Gooding, and Elmore Counties: Call Cheryl Ringenberg (208) 733-7610.

Pickup points:

Twin Falls.....	Sheriff's Office
Filer.....	Logan's Market
Buhl.....	Oasis Stop-N-Go
Jerome.....	Ridley's Market
Gooding.....	Ridley's Market
Wendell.....	Farmhouse
Bliss.....	Ziggy's
Hammett.....	Penney's Market
Glenns Ferry.....	Shell Station
Mountain Home.....	Foothills Chevron Station

✱ Cassia, Minidoka, and Blaine Counties: Call Dick Dalton (208) 678-3599 or 878-2565.

Pickup points:

Burley.....	Sheriff's Office
.....	Exit 211 Wayside
.....	Exit 208 Hub 66
.....	Greenwood Store

✱ Southeast Oregon - Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Huntington, John Day:

Call Carl Swinyer (541)-894-2546, Robert Warner (541)523-5340 or the VFW Hall (541) 523-4988.

DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE AND WALLA WALLA VAMC'S

Wednesdays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Genesee, Moscow, Viola, Potlatch, Tensed, Plummer, and Worley. Arrives Spokane at 9:30 a.m.

Fridays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Uniontown, Colton, Pullman, Colfax, Steptoe, Rosalia, and Spangle, WA. Arrives Spokane at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

Thursdays: Walla Walla VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Clarkston, Pomeroy, Dayton, Waitsburg, and Dixie, WA. Arrives at Walla Walla at 8:30 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Walla Walla VA Medical Center (888) 687-8863 ext. 22529

*****If you are interested in being a volunteer drive, please call Richard Lyon at (208) 882-8580*****

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:00 a.m. departure from Libby, MT.

Picks up in Troy MT, Bonner's Ferry, Sandpoint, Priest River, and Newport WA. Arrives at Spokane VA Medical Center at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Daily: Door to door pick up and return, times variable.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

SALT LAKE CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER

January 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 29, 31

February 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28

March 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 31

All appointments for rides should be made 24 hours in advance.

Call Heidi Hopper at the DAV Transportation Office (208) 221-0362 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003.



MOBILE CLINIC

JANUARY - 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>On Station</i>	3 <i>On Station</i>	4 <i>On Station</i>	5
6	7 <i>On Station</i>	8 Moses Lake	9 Moses Lake	10 Moses Lake	11	12
13	14	15 Kettle Falls	16 Republic	17 Okanogan	18 Okanogan	19
20	21	22 Moscow	23 Osburn	24 Osburn	25	26
27	28	29 Libby	30 Libby	31 Libby		

FEBRUARY - 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bonners Ferry	2
3	4 <i>On Station</i>	5 Moses Lake	6 Moses Lake	7 Moses Lake	8	9
10	11	12 Kettle Falls	13 Republic	14 Okanogan	15 Okanogan	16
17	18	19 Moscow	20 Osburn	21 Osburn	22	23
24	25	26 Libby	27 Libby	28 Libby	29 Bonners Ferry	

MARCH - 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <i>On Station</i>	4 Moses Lake	5 Moses Lake	6 Moses Lake	7	8
9	10	11 Kettle Falls	12 Republic	13 Okanogan	14 Okanogan	15
16	17	18 Libby	19 Libby	20 Libby	21 Bonners Ferry	22
23	24 Moscow	25 Osburn	26 Osburn	27 <i>On Station</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>On Station</i>					